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THE PRESENT SITUATION REGARDING THE PROCUREMENT OF USSR SERIAL PUBLICATIONS IN VIEW OF EXPORT RESTRICTIONS

Beginning with the promulgation in 1947 of certain internal security decrees by the USSR, the procurement of overt Soviet publications has become progressively difficult, particularly with respect to materials in the fields of science and technology. A complicating factor in this procurement effort stems from the denial to the West of key USSR bibliographic reference works which indicate the annual book production of the USSR, the subject matters involved, prevalence of works by certain authors, new titles of serial publications issued, and the discontinuance of former publications.

Cognizance, then, of what is currently published in the USSR constitutes the initial problem. IAC agencies attempt to keep abreast of all catalogues, brochures and other announcements which indicate the availability of USSR publications. A secondary source of such information has been developed by studying the references cited in various international abstract journals utilizing USSR publications. Titles of interest are noted and efforts made to procure them through the most feasible channels.

The procurement of overt USSR publications can be characterized as falling within the following three categories:

1. Publications available on subscription to Soyuzpechat' of Mezhnkiga in Moscow or to its outlet stores in various parts of the world;
2. Publications not available on subscription but available on newsstands and in bookstalls within the USSR; and

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3. Scientific and technical publications not generally available through the above means but exchanged on a limited basis with research and academic institutions throughout the world.

The procedures which follow are currently in operation to obtain overt USSR publications on behalf of various Federal agencies.

Moscow

The bulk of USSR publications received in response to intelligence requirements is procured through the efforts of the State Department's Publication Procurement Officer at the American Embassy, Moscow. Since the assignment of the present PPO in August 1953, following a period of some fifteen months during which no PPO was assigned, the receipt of USSR publications has greatly improved and reflects the degree of selectivity exercised by the PPO in procuring books and monographs available in the USSR (see Attachment A).

In addition, approximately 1,900 subscriptions to 460 individual USSR serial titles were requested by Federal agencies in Washington for the calendar year 1954 and submitted to the PPO, Moscow. Nearly 100 of these serial titles were those which had been denied previously by Soviet authorities or available in limited number only. As is the case each year, availability of serial titles on a subscription basis is generally confined to those titles which appear in the annual publication KATALOG GAZET I ZHURNALOV NA ---- GOD (Catalogue of Newspapers and Journals for the Year ----). Of the 363 serial titles listed in the 1954 catalogue, subscriptions to 18 titles, the majority of them scientific or technical in nature, were refused (see Attachment B for a listing of these titles).

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The PPO was, however, successful in obtaining subscriptions to three newspapers and three periodicals which were not listed in the catalogue (see Attachment C for these titles). Coverage of USSR newspapers includes the Moscow papers, two papers from each of the republic capitals and scattered issues of newspapers which are obtained as a result of travel, where permitted, by the Embassy staff within the USSR. The vast area of the Eastern USSR is not covered in present receipts.

To insure the receipt of USSR publications which are available through various other sources and to obtain the widest possible coverage of the Soviet press, the following projects have been developed.

AC of S, G-2

As a result of an informal agreement between the AD/CD, CIA and the AC of S, G-2, each year a member of the CIA Library is permitted to review and add some 40 serial titles to the G-2 subscription list which is forwarded to the Army Attache, Moscow. The serials thus requested fall into an insurance category, i.e., due to their scientific or technical subject matter they may be denied to the PPO or else accepted in limited number only. Their procurement by means of the Army Attache would ensure their availability. A complete set of the USSR provincial newspapers, always in short supply, is similarly obtained as a result of G-2 procurement.

In addition, the G-2 Document Library receives numerous foreign language publications, including those from the USSR, by means of the various collection elements of the Army. Many of these publications, exclusive of single copy books and military publications, are transferred to the CIA Library

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after routing through G-2. This procedure has resulted in the receipt of approximately 100 USSR publications per month.

Moreover, the AC of S, G-2, revises annually Intelligence Collection Memorandum 23 (ICM-23), which is circulated to the various Military Attaches for collection action. This memorandum includes the titles of some 75 critical, i.e. "hard-to-get", USSR serial titles which have been denied for export by Soviet authorities. In making the annual revision of this listing, a member of the CIA Library works closely with personnel of AC of S, G-2.

SOBER

In 1949 project SOBER (procurement of Soviet publications through Berlin) was initiated, whereby field installations of CIA work in unison with the intelligence components of Commander Naval Forces, Germany. The purpose of the project is to collect USSR serials and monographs not normally available in Moscow which may appear in the Soviet Sector of Berlin. In October 1953 this project was reviewed and current requirements submitted on the basis of what is expected from Moscow. It is as yet too early to evaluate properly the results of this revision from the point of view of acquisitions.

HICOG

Extensive use is made of the State Department's Publications Procurement Officer operating in Berlin, Bonn and Frankfurt. The present PPO has, in addition to the very heavy workload encountered in handling German language publication requirements, developed excellent channels and procedures for obtaining USSR publications. Due to the fact that the Soviet Sector of Berlin is also covered by the PPO, there have been instances of publications

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not available in Moscow being procured by the PPO in Berlin. A total of 164 subscriptions to USSR serials have been placed for 1954, including critical titles and titles available elsewhere in insufficient number. The results have been very gratifying.

Paris

The State Department's Publications Procurement Officer in Paris has established a wide range of contacts in Paris and environs with booksellers, libraries, research organizations, and academic institutions having or utilizing Soviet publications. Subscription requests for 185 USSR serial titles have been placed with the PPO for 1954, embracing those scientific and technical serials needed in many copies.

Eastern European Satellites

Copies of the CIA Library's Supplementary List of USSR Serials, which lists the critical Soviet newspapers and periodicals needed by intelligence components, have been sent to the Chiefs of Mission at Prague, Bucharest, Budapest, Warsaw, Belgrade, Vienna and Berlin, authorizing funds to cover the purchase of any of the items listed. The same instruction outlines the need for USSR books and monographs on the basis of priority subject matter, e.g., nuclear energy, military developments, telecommunications, and industrial production.

Scandinavia

Circular airgram 3658 has been sent to Iceland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden, requesting that the respective Embassy staffs study 1) the availability of USSR publications in the open market, 2) any special channels developed by academic and other institutions to procure USSR publications, and 3) the possibilities of effecting exchange programs with such academic institutions.

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U.S. Academic Institutions

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Through the facilities [REDACTED] numerous academic institutions, research organizations, and private business firms are contacted and collection channels established with them. Such organizations receive on exchange USSR publications from various institutions within the Soviet Union. Each of the Division's field offices receives copies of collection guides listing Soviet publications needed to fill gaps in Washington holdings of such material. Titles needed are obtained on loan and reproduced to satisfy internal requirements. Soviet publications shipped into the U.S. through the New York port authority are monitored by the Division's New York field office.

Smithsonian Institution

Since 1881, the Smithsonian Institution has been the official U.S. government agency for the exchange of governmental, scientific and literary publications with international organizations. Although considerable exchange is carried on directly by U.S. agencies and academic institutions with counterparts abroad, the Institution by its very nature receives numerous inquiries pertaining to proposed exchanges as well as information concerning publications offered on exchange. [REDACTED]

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Four Continent Book Corporation

Similar to the Soviet outlet stores in most major cities in the world, the Four Continent Book Corporation in New York circulates annually a catalogue of Soviet serial titles available on subscription. As in previous years, the Corporation offers for consideration newspaper and periodical titles which in some instances have been denied in Moscow. Thus for 1954

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most of the 18 USSR scientific and technical publications which appear on Attachment A were listed in this year's catalogue. Subscriptions to these titles have been placed with this Corporation through the Department of State. Receipt in the past of such critical items from the Corporation has been rare.

A-2 and ONI

The collection facilities of the Departments of Air and Navy are utilized by CIA in special situations, effective liaison having been established between the CIA Library and A-2's AID and ATIC components and Navy's Technical Services Branch.

Glandestine Collection

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